



St James and St John Church of England Primary School

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2
2025



A message from Mrs Woods

As we come to the end of the Autumn term and prepare to break up for Christmas, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful past few weeks at St James and St John Church of England Primary School.

This half-term has been brimming with festive fun and enriching activities. From our Christmas Nativities and playful elf mischief to the magical KS2 Chringles Service, it has been heartwarming to see the children embrace the true spirit of Christmas.

Our Panto trip and Christmas Jumper Day added even more excitement to the season, and we are so grateful to our staff, PTFA and families for their support in making these events so memorable.

Looking back over the term, the children have enjoyed so many amazing opportunities to learn, explore, and grow. From the Year 6 Manor Adventure trip to Year 1's visit to MK Museum, so many cherished memories have been made.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we have a quieter few weeks but with plenty to look forward to, including the whole school Bounce Beyond visit, Year 1 starting Forest School, KS2 Orienteering Day and the next round of our cooking competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and encouragement. It has been a privilege to witness the children's achievements and growth this term as they have prospered in the many different aspects of school life. I am incredibly proud of them all.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas with your loved ones, and a very Happy New Year!

From,
Louise Woods
Head teacher



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's business.

If you have concerns about a child at our school it is paramount you voice this to a member of our safeguarding team:



Mrs Louise Woods
Headteacher,
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Rebecca Bailey
Year 3 Teacher, KS2 Lead,
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Mr James Peppiatt
Safeguarding Governor

School reopens on:



Monday 5th
January 2026.

Social Media

If you haven't already, please do support us by following our social media pages! We would also be extremely grateful to receive more Facebook reviews if you have a spare few minutes.



[Click here for Instagram!](#)



[Click here for Facebook!](#)

Friendly reminders

School Dinners

If you would like to order meals for Spring term 1, please log into your online account to submit your choices. Remember to order before 10am on the Thursday before the following week.

School timings

Please can we remind parents of the timings of the school day. We do appreciate it is difficult when you have siblings at both school sites to be at school drop-off and pick-up on time. Being late does have a knock on effect for everyone and can cause disruption. Please also remember our playground is open from 8:30am at Chackmore so you can drop your children off.

Akeley Site: start of day 8.40am – finish 3.10pm. **Chackmore:** start of day 8.45am – finish 3.15pm.

Parking

Please be reminded to park sensibly and considerately. Please do not park on or opposite the yellow zigzags and block or hang over our neighbours' driveways, including the school driveway.

PE Days

Monday: Year 5 and Year 6

Tuesday: Year 4 and Year 3

Wednesday: EYFS and Year 2

Thursday: Year 5 and Year 6, Year 1 Forest School

Friday: EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4



EVERYDAY MINUTE COUNTS



5 minutes per day



15 minutes per day



25 minutes per day

3 school days lost per year

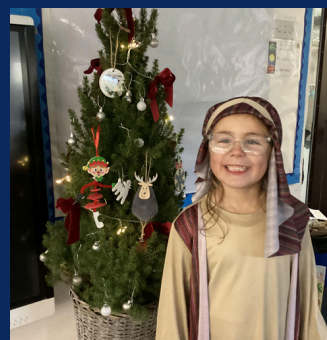
10 school days lost per year

19 school days lost per year

ALL OF THE *festivities*



December has been a wonderfully festive month in school, filled with Christmas cheer and memorable experiences for our pupils. We celebrated Christmas Jumper Day, bringing colour, laughter and a great sense of fun to the school community!



Our pupils shone in the EYFS and KS1 Nativity and KS2 Carol Concert, delighting families with their confidence, singing and storytelling. Year 4 enjoyed Christmas Unwrapped, exploring the true meaning of Christmas. Our KS2 children enjoyed our annual Christingle service with Rev Cathy Pearce. Everyone loved our Festive Packed Lunch and excitement was high for our panto trip, which proved to be a highlight full of laughter and festive magic. Oh and not to mention the return of our cheeky Elves who will be flying back to the North Pole today!





CHRISTMAS

nativity

A huge well done to Foundation, Year 1, and Year 2 for their outstanding Nativity performances! They brought "A Magical Christmas Journey" to life beautifully, and it was truly wonderful to see their hard work shine on stage.



KINDNESS

day!

We enjoyed celebrating World Kindness Day in November by wearing our colourful, odd socks! We really enjoyed taking special time in the day to focus on kindness.





MANOR *Adventure*

Let's go way back to the first week of term, when Year 6 enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Manor Adventure with Mrs Woods, Miss Clarke and Miss Coxall! The children had an unforgettable time making memories that will last a lifetime!



The children's kindness, respect, and friendship shone throughout the trip, and the instructors noticed it too! We were so proud of your aspiration, courage, resilience, and determination to challenge yourselves every step of the way.

Keep being awesome, Year 6!

MILTON KEYNES *Museum*

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to MK Museum in November, where they stepped back in time to explore what homes were like in the past. The children loved investigating real artefacts and discovering how people lived long ago, bringing their history learning about Homes in the Past to life in a memorable and hands-on way.



THE STORY *Museum*

Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic day out in Oxford, where they explored the inspirations behind the much-loved story *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Pupils had a wonderful time discovering how the city influenced C.S. Lewis's writing, bringing the magic of the book to life and deepening their understanding of this classic tale.

CHRISTMAS

Trees

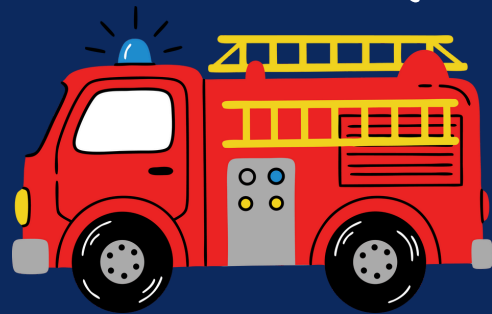
A huge thank you to Mrs Coxall, our Chair of Governors, for our beautiful Christmas trees! We have a gorgeous tree at Akeley and this beautiful tree at Chackmore. The children really enjoyed decorating them at the start of December.



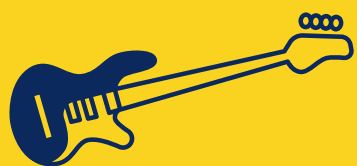
FIRE ENGINE

visit

Year 5 enjoyed time during their Fire Safety Education Visit from Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. Delivered at our school by our local fire crew, the session was full of interactive presentations and engaging activities that helped the children learn important fire safety messages in a fun and memorable way. The pupils were excited to meet the firefighters and loved discovering how to stay safe, making it a truly enjoyable and educational experience. Thank you to Mr Bailey for helping to arrange this!



ROCKSTEADY



concert!

Our talented young musicians from Rocksteady took to the stage for their termly show, and what a performance it was! Each week, they've been working with Adam from Rocksteady, learning, jamming, and building their confidence. and it truly showed. The children were buzzing with excitement, and the joy was infectious...so much so that even some of the staff couldn't resist joining in! A huge well done to all our budding rockstars for an unforgettable show.



CHRISTMAS

Stoweman

Don't forget! From Saturday 15th November - Sunday 4th January, you can wander through Stowe grounds and see if you can spot our Stoweman! You will also have the opportunity to learn more about the other community groups that created them and solve snowman-themed puzzles in the free activity booklet!





News FROM THE PTFA

We have had an amazing Autumn/Winter term. It seems ages ago that we were giving out hug bags to the new starters. We've helped in school with new bunting, Honey's got her jumper and a Christmas outfit and if you can believe it we painted in the sunshine! We've also had a small team helping at Akeley with phonics packs.

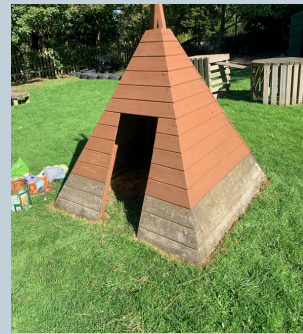
For fundraising events we've had a Frozen Friday; Christmas Design Products; Break the Rules; Disco; Wreath-Making; Winter Raffle; Winter Stall and Elfridges. In terms of where those funds have gone we funded the Leavers Hoodies so they had them for their residential and have approved funding requests so far from school to the value of £1,900: Coaches to Panto; Theraputty for Akeley; Y5 trip to National Space Centre; Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop; Y3 Stoneage Workshop; Y1 trip.

A couple of upcoming dates for the diary: Comfy Day is Friday 9 January and Aaron is back on 6 February for the disco - I bet the teachers attending can't wait for the toilet roll stunt!

We hope you have a great time over the festive period and enjoy using the lovely presents the kids thoughtfully chose at Elfridges.

Thanks for all your support.

PTFA Team



DIARY DATES

For next half term



We have quite a relaxed start to the New Year and look forward to the exciting learning opportunities and activities planned below!

WHOLE SCHOOL

Monday 5th January 2026 - First Day back
Friday 9th January 2026 - PTFA Comfy Day
Friday 6th February 2026 - PTFA Disco
Thursday 12th February 2026 - Last day of term
Friday 13th February 2026 - Staff inset day

CHACKMORE

Wednesday 7th January 2026 - KS2 Orienteering Experience Day (PE kits, coats, wellies)
Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Beyond Bounce (Wear PE kits)
Tuesday 13th January 2026 @ 14:45 - Year 4 - Parents' Info Mtg - Everdon Residential
Monday 9th February 2026 - KS2 Cooking Competition Round 2
Tuesday 10th February 2026 @ 14:45 - Year 5 - Parents' Info Mtf - Manor Adventure

AKELEY

Monday 19th January 2026 - Beyond Bounce (Wear PE kits)

MERRY
CHRISTMAS